

Filed for intro on 02/05/98
HOUSE BILL 3354 By
Head

SENATE BILL 3345
By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 65-4-201(d), and to define rural incumbent local exchange telephone companies and specify their duties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 65-4-201(d), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(d) Subsection (c) is not applicable to areas served by exchanges of a rural incumbent local exchange telephone company which are wholly outside the boundaries of a Metropolitan Statistical Area, unless such company voluntarily enters into an interconnection agreement with a competing telecommunications service provider with respect to local service within that exchange area, or unless such company applies for a certificate to provide telecommunications services in an area outside its service area existing on the effective date of this act. A "rural incumbent local exchange telephone company" is an incumbent local exchange telephone company which, on the effective date of this act, serves fewer than a total of fifty thousand (50,000) access lines in this state; provided that in computing the total number of access lines served in this state, lines served in this state by any affiliated local exchange telephone company under common control shall be included in that total. To the extent that the exchanges of any rural incumbent local exchange telephone company are subject to competition as herein provided, such company shall be subject to the same duties and responsibilities to enter

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into interconnection agreements and participate in and contribute to universal service, as any other telecommunications service provider.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.